

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-13 AID-05 ACDA-10 TRSE-00 /105 W

-----281235Z 086722 /14

P R 280941Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4898

INFO AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS LUSAKA 0260

DEPT. PLEASE PASS OAU COLLECTIVE

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, XJ, OAU

SUBJ: OAU SECRETARY-GENERAL ETEKI CALLS FOR PAN-AFRICAN DEFENSE
FORCE

SUMMARY: OAU SECRETARY-GENERAL SAID THAT HE WOULD PROPOSE THE
CREATION OF PAN-AFRICAN DEFENSE FORCE TO THE MEETING OF THE OAU
DEFENSE COMMITTEE NEXT WEEK. SUCH A FORCE WOULD NOT FIGHT IN
RHODESIA, BUT WOULD BE A DETERRENT TO "HOT PURSUIT" BY WHITE
MINORITY REGIMES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. ETEKI AGAIN PREDICTED
DEFENSE COMMITTEE SUPPORT FOR THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AND AFRICAN
REJECTION OF A SMITH PUPPET GOVERNMENT. OAU LIBERATION COMMITTEE
SECRETARY-GENERAL MBITA SAID HIS COMMITTEE WOULD GIVE EVERY
MATERIAL SUPPORT TO THE NATIONALISTS AND SAW SMITH'S REJECTION
OF BRITISH PROPOSALS AS FREEING NATIONALISTS AND AFRICAN STATES
FROM RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONSEQUENCES OF WHAT MAY HAPPEN IN
RHODESIA. END SUMMARY

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1. OAU SECRETARY-GENERAL ETEKI SAID THAT HE WOULD PROPOSE THE
CREATION OF A PAN-AFRICAN DEFENSE FORCE TO COUNTER AGGRESSION BY
WHITE MINORITY REGIMES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA TO THE OAU DEFENSE
COMMITTEE IN LUSAKA NEXT WEEK. TALKING WITH THE PRESS JANUARY 27
ETEKI OUTLINED THE PURPOSE OF THE PROPOSED FORCE TO BE
PROTECTION OF THE FRONTLINE STATES AGAINST "HOT PURSUIT" AND TO REPEL
SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES MASSED IN NAMIBIA IN CASE OF INCURSIONS INTO

ZAMBIA OR ANGOLA. AT THE SAME TIME THAT THE OAU IS RENDERING ASSISTANCE TO THE INTENSIFICATION OF THE NATIONALISTS' EFFORTS, SELF-DEFENSE MUST BE ORGANIZED ETEKI TOLD THE PRESS. ETEKI MADE CLEAR THAT SUCH A FORCE WAS NOT INTENDED TO FIGHT IN RHODESIA, BUT ACT AS A DETERRENT ONLY. ETEKI DID NOT ELABORATE ON THE COMPOSITION OR LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED PAN-AFRICAN FORCE, BUT PREDICTED AN ENLARGEMENT OF THE ARRANGEMENT UNDER WHICH TANZANIAN FORCES ARE ASSISTING THEIR MOZAMBICAN COUNTERPARTS.

2. IN REPLY TO OTHER QUESTIONS ETEKI SAID HE BELIEVED THAT THE OAU DEFENSE COMMITTEE WOULD BACK THE PATRIOTIC FRONT "BECAUSE PT IS THE ONLY ONE FIGHTING". ASKED WHAT THE OAU REACTION WOULD BE IF SMITH PURSUED AN INTERNAL OPTION WITH MODERATE BLACKS, ETEKI REPORTEDLY REPLIED, "IN PRINCIPLE, AFRICA WOULD CONTINUE TO BACK THE PATRIOTIC FRONT IF SMITH SET UP A PUPPET GOVERNMENT". ETEKI DID NOT VIEW POSSIBLE CUBAN INVOLVEMENT AS A PROBLEM REMARKING "WHERE THERE IS A WAR THERE ARE ALWAYS ALLIES".

3. IN A SEPARATE INTERVIEW GIVEN TO THE DAILY MAIL, OAU LIBERATION COMMITTEE EXECUTIVE-SECRETARY COL. HASHIM MBITA SAID SMITH'S REJECTION OF RICHARD'S PROPOSALS "HAS CAST DOOM" FOR WHITES IN RHODESIA. MBITA WENT ON TO NOTE THAT SMITH'S DECISION HAS PUT FUEL ON A BURNING FIRE, THE LIBERATION COMMITTEE WILL GIVE EVERY MATERIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE NATIONALISTS. SMITH'S ACTIONS FREES THE NATIONALISTS AND AFRICAN STATES FROM ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONSEQUENCES WHICH THE CONFRONTATION IN RHODESIA MAY PRODUCE.

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NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED OAU COLLECTIVE.

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment:
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Subject: OAU SECRETARY-GENERAL ETEKI CALLS FOR PAN-AFRICAN DEFENSE FORCE SUMMARY: OAU SECRETARY-GENERAL SAID THAT HE WOULD
TAGS: MARR, PFOR, XJ, OAU, (ETEKI, WILLIAM MBOUMOUA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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